

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00730 281143Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2193

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

EUCOM

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,MILI, TU, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON MONTREUX CONVENTION AND TRANSIT OF
AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

REF ANKARA 0139 DTG 081123Z JAN 76

1. JANUARY 27 TURKISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER MILLIYET
CARRIES A MEHMET ALI BIRAND ARTICLE FROM BRUSSELS
CONCERNING NATO DISCUSSION OF IMPENDING PASSAGE OF
SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS "KIEV" AND "MINSK" THROUGH
THE STRAITS. BIRAND NOTES THAT VARIOUS COUNTRIES HAVE
EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT IMPENDING PASSAGE OF SOVIET
SHIPS AND THAT U.S. IS VERY KEEN TO AMEND THE MONTREUX
CONVENTION. TURKEY, HOWEVER, BIRAND WRITES, HAS
CATEGORICALLY REJECTED ALL PROPOSALS FOR AMENDING THE
CONVENTION AND HAS OPPOSED PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE
SOVIETS NOT RPT NOT TO EFFECT PASSAGE OF THE SHIPS.

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2. BIRAND ARTICLE CARRIES FOLLOWING OPINIONS ALLEGEDLY
EXPRESSED BY TURKISH OFFICIALS: QUOTE: THE MONTREUX

CONVENTION RECOGNIZES TURKEY'S DEFINITE AND LIMITLESS
SOVEREIGNTY. THE AMENDMENT OF THE CONVENTION, THEREFORE,
CAN IN NO WAY BE CONTEMPLATED. WE ARE PARTICULARLY
OPPOSED TO PRESSURING THE SOVIETS ON SUCH A
TOPIC IN DISREGARD OF WORLD REALITIES. THE SOVIETS
OBSERVE THE CONVENTION TO THE LETTER AND FULFILL EVERY
CONDITION. IN FACT, EVEN THOUGH THE CONVENTION SEEMS
TO EXCLUDE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, WITH THE EXPRESSIONS
EMPLOYED IN ITS ANNEXES, IT PROVIDES LEGAL GROUNDS FOR
THE PASSAGE RIGHTS OF THESE VESSELS TOO. ON THE STRAITS'
QUESTION ANKARA IS THE SLE AUTHORITY AND THERE CAN BE
NO QUESTION OF TOLERATING ANY PROPOSAL ON THIS SUBJECT.
INDEED, NO CONCRETE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT ANY
AMENDMENT. END QUOTE.
MACOMBER

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